Members of the Sri Mulam Assembly.

1. Mr. T. K. Gopalan Nair (*Secretary to Government*)
2. ,, C. P. Gopala Panicker (*Secretary to Government*)
3. ,, P. Karunakara Thandar (*Ambalapuzha cum Shertallai General Rural Ezhava Reserved Constituency*)
4. ,, C. Kumara Das (*Secretary to Government*)
5. ,, K. G. Kunjukrishna Pillai (*Advocate-General*)
6. ,, K. R. Narayana Aiyar (*Secretary to Government and Director of Food Supplies*)
7. ,, S. Narayana Aiyar (*Financial Secretary to Government*)
8. ,, Kainikkara M. Padmanabha Pillai (*Secretary to Government*)
9. ,, N. Ramakrishna Pillai (*Legal Remembrancer to Government*)
10. ,, V. Ramanuja Aiyangar (*Secretary to Government*) and
11. Dewan Bahadur L. Venkatakrishnan (*Chief Engineer*).

Mr. S. Narayana Aiyar (*Financial Secretary to Government*) :

Sir,

I rise to present the budget estimates for the next year. The budget that I am submitting for the consideration of the House today is, I need hardly say, the first after-war budget. When we met here about this time last year to discuss the financial statements for the current year, we were looking forward eagerly and confidently to the day of final victory. Peace has been officially announced and disarmament and demobilisation are in full swing and our Second Infantry has already returned home after participating in the fight. The First Infantry which is now in Hongkong is also expected to come back to us at no distant date. Post-war planning aiming at the restoration of pre-war conditions and the maintenance of the increased standards of social and economic life of the body politic, is no more the talk for the contingent future, but a real task of immediate urgency. But the havoc and devastation wrought by half a dozen years of strenuous strife cannot be easily eliminated by a victory, howsoever, complete and decisive. While we have every reason to rejoice with the rest of the civilised world in the prospects of the ultimate triumph of international justice, the time has not yet come for relaxation of our efforts or for enjoyment of the fruits of peace. The good and the evil effects of war closely follow the wake of peace, as they must necessarily do in a period of transition. Though there is some improvement in shipping and other transport facilities, they have by no means

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

reached the pre-war level. High prices still rule the market and the food problem continues to demand serious attention with the result that our control measures have to be in force for some time more. But our raw products such as rubber, timber, cocoanuts, etc. are in increasing demand and the inflationary tendency consequent on the plethora of money in the land is greatly in evidence. The revenues of the State are also correspondingly mounting up to unattained heights and in spite of the note of pessimism that I sounded in my last budget speech, our revenue realisations have far exceeded our anticipations. But with all that, it would be unwise to expect that our revenues will necessarily continue to keep up the present high level during the years to come, with pre-war conditions and normal price levels fully restored, although if our large reconstruction and industrial programmes go forward as anticipated, the future is bound to be bright. For this reason, the budget that I am presenting to the House for the next year is designed, as in the case of the budget we discussed last year, to be a budget for the future and not merely for the next year. Before approaching the budget estimates for the ensuing year through the revised estimates for the current year, I shall, as usual, briefly review the final accounts of the last completed financial year.

ACTUALS OF 1120.

2. In reviewing the budgetary position towards the close of last year in the light of the actual experience of the earlier months of the year, the revised estimates of revenue and ordinary expenditure for 1120 were fixed at Rs 607·12 lakhs and Rs 440·67 lakhs respectively, thus anticipating a revenue surplus of Rs 166·45 lakhs. But the year actually ended in a surplus of Rs 170·27 lakhs, which stands credited to the Post-War Reconstruction Fund. This increase of Rs 3·82 lakhs over the anticipated surplus was the net result of an improvement in revenue to the extent of Rs 4·13 lakhs offset by an excess of Rs ·31 of a lakh on the expenditure side. The major heads which contributed to the larger receipts were Customs, Excise and Taxes on Income. There was, however, a marked fall in revenue under Railways and Currency and Mint the former, due to increase in working expenses and the latter on account of their having been no mintage of silver coins during the year. The variation in expenditure being only to the extent of Rs ·31 of a lakh in an aggregate expenditure of Rs 440·98 lakhs calls for no special explanation.

3. On account of the war-time difficulties in getting machinery and other materials from abroad, difficulties which are still

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly